<u>Influenza Virus Collection Protocol</u>

Sentinel Site Kits

Kit Supplies: Diagnostic Specimen Mailer

Ice packs – keep ice packs frozen until needed
Viral Transport Media – store at room temp.

Bi

Federal Express label – pre-addressed

Dacron swabs Biohazard bag Absorbent paper

Influenza requisition form

Specimen Collection:

Specimen should be collected within 3 days of onset of symptoms.

Use only Dacron swabs provided. (Do not use wood or calcium alginate swabs.)

Preferable Specimen: Nasal Swab

Acceptable Specimen: Nasopharyngeal swab, nasal aspirate/wash

Collect swab (or aspirate) and place in viral transport medium.

Break shafts of swabs to permit closure of tube with screw cap.

Screw cap on tube securely, to avoid leakage.

Label each specimen with patient's name and collection date.

Refrigerate specimen(s) until ready to ship.

Shipping:

Mail specimens only Monday-Wednesday using overnight delivery.

Package each specimen individually in a biohazard bag with absorbent paper.

Complete the request form entirely and place in the biohazard bag pocket.

Multiple specimens collected the same day may be shipped in the same shipping container.

Place frozen ice packs in with the specimens to maintain at 4° C.

Close container and seal with tape.

If sending by courier, write WPHL on the side of the box.

If sending by Fed Ex, complete and attach the Fed Ex form.

NOTE: Store all transport media and collected specimens at 4° C until shipment!

SPECIMENS MUST ARRIVE AT THE LABORATORY WITHIN 24-48 HOURS OF

COLLECTION.

If you have any questions concerning collection or shipment, please call the Influenza Lab at WPHL.

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